

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
WESTERN DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON
AT SEATTLE

MONICA L COOK,

Plaintiff,

v.

COMMISSIONER OF SOCIAL SECURITY,

Defendant.

Case No. C23-1178 RSM

SCHEDULING ORDER

The Court **ORDERS** the following briefing schedule:

Plaintiff's Opening Brief, limited to 18 pages or 6300 words whichever is less , is due:	November 9, 2023
Defendant's Response Brief, limited to 18 pages or 6300 words whichever is less , is due:	December 9, 2023, or within 30 days of the date the opening is filed, whichever is earlier.
Plaintiff's Optional Reply Brief, limited to 9 pages or 3150 words whichever is less , is due:	December 23, 2023, or within 14 days of the date the response is filed, whichever is earlier.

These dates and page limitations are firm and can be changed only by order of the Court, not by agreement of counsel or the parties. Stipulations and motions to extend time or page limitations must be noted on the Court's calendar prior to the due date pursuant to the briefing

1 schedules established in LCR 10(g) and LCR 7, respectively. The Court will consider the case
2 on written submissions unless otherwise ordered.

3 **BRIEFING REQUIREMENTS**

4 Because Plaintiff is proceeding *pro se*, the Court will outline the issues Plaintiff raised in
5 her complaint and her letter. Dkts. 7, 11. The purpose of this is to clarify the issues raised for
6 both parties so that they may properly address them in their briefs and the Court may ultimately
7 properly address them in its order. The Court understands the issues raised by Plaintiff's
8 complaint as follows:

9 Plaintiff alleges the ALJ erred in denying her Title II and Title XVI benefits, and that the
10 ALJ's findings about her substance abuse were erroneous because she has "been sober more than
11 [sic] not." See Dkts. 7 at 2; 11 at 1. The Court understands this argument to allege that the ALJ
12 erred in considering substance abuse in rejecting her symptom testimony and medical evidence.

13 These are the claims the Court will consider in its decision. Plaintiff may file an opening
14 brief discussing these claims. If Plaintiff has any other claims, she must list these claims on the
15 first page of her brief. She must also explain in her brief how the ALJ erred. If Plaintiff does not
16 file an opening brief, the Court will consider only the claims identified above.

17 Defendant must file a response, whether or not Plaintiff files an opening brief.
18 Defendant's response must address the claims Plaintiff raised in her complaint and any other
19 issues she may raise in her opening brief. Defendant's response must include citations to the
20 pages of the Administrative Record, relevant legal authority in support, and a statement of the
21 relief requested.

22 **Personal Data and Formatting**

23 All briefs must conform to the redaction rules regarding personal data set forth in LCR


1 5.2 and to the formatting requirements set forth in LCR 10.

2 In addition, all briefs must use the Bates number stamped on the lower right-hand corner
3 of each page when citing to specific pages of the administrative record.

4 **The Court may strike or return for correction briefs not conforming to this Order.**

5 The Clerk is directed to send a copy of this Order to Plaintiff.

6 DATED this 10th day of October, 2023.

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10 Ricardo S. Martinez
United States District Judge